

Mayor's Message (June 21st 2021)

Hello. I'm FUSHIMI Takashi, Mayor of Hirakata City.

The third declaration of state of emergency, which was issued on April 25th, was finally lifted today.

The number of Hirakata's new corona cases becomes fewer than its peak. I would like to express my deep gratitude to those who cooperated for our anti-corona measures by refraining unnecessary and non-urgent outings and by temporarily shutting down shops and restaurants. Furthermore, I also would like to say "thank you" to the front-line health or welfare workers who worked harder when the number of severe patients exceeded that of hospital beds and the hospitals were facing tight medical care.

Although the declaration is removed, many corona patients are still being hospitalised. In addition, there is the risk of spreading new corona variations. Hence, from June 21st, the strict measures to prevent spreading corona infections have been in effect in Osaka's 33 cities including Hirakata. To avoid the fifth spike and provide smooth medical services, again, I would like to ask for taking thorough anti-virus actions, refraining unnecessary and non-urgent outings, and shortening business hours.

We will reopen our city facilities that have been shut during the declaration of state of emergency. City events also will be resumed. To maintain social functioning and resolve economic issues, we will continue anti-infectious measures and address the revival of severe local economy.

The governmental vaccination plan about when and who can receive the vaccinations is changing day by day. We told you our vaccination schedule in the special issue of our city magazine. However, the speed of the vaccinations for those aged 65 or over is faster than our expectation. In addition, the central government and the Osaka prefectural government expand the range of people who can receive them. Hence, we decided to send vaccination tickets to the citizens under 64 earlier than our schedule. The vaccine is thought to be effective to prevent group infections at hospitals and care homes. To avoid the fifth spike, we are now making full efforts to promptly send the vouchers to those who want to be inoculated as soon as possible.

"We can overcome it! Let's go ahead beyond COVID-19!" We, all city staff, will strive to work harder for our citizens' safe lives. I would like to call for your continuous understanding and cooperation for our anti-infectious measures.

FUSHIMI Takashi
Mayor of Hirakata City